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FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE
(REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR)

FRETILIN

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM EAST TIMOR by Radio in DARWIN, 13/10/85

from FRETILIN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RESISTANCE

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,

On this day 13/10/85 on which in Melbourne is marked the 10th anniversary of the death of 5 journalists by vile and cowardly assination in Balibo on the 16th October 1975 by the aggressors of our dear country - we won't allow our voice not to join yours, the voices of all their relatives and friends as well as every one present who came to publically show their repudiation of that criminal action.

Also we would like to say that the day of invasion covered our small defenceless homeland with a dark mantle of heavy mourning equalling the mourning of the relatives and friends of another Australian journalist Roger East, whose life was also cut off by the assassin bullets of the Indonesian aggressor side by side with dozens of patriots and militants of Fretilin on the Dili wharf.

However, before anything, we would like to send our affectionate greetings to Mrs Shirley Shackelton as well as to the relatives of the other journalists massacred in Balibo and Dili. Despite the distance that separates us, I believe that we join you in the heartache that has afflicted you from 10 years ago in the remembrance of your beloved.

We also want to greet all the representatives of the Australian Press present, and express our sentiments of solidarity for the fact that 6 of your colleagues have lost their lives in the covering of our struggle - a fact that we continue to remember and to lament.

We use this occasion to warmly greet all our Australian friends and supporters, all those internationalist fighters in the struggle, who unselfishly are able to transform our just cause into their just cause, and who have expressed to us with firmness and kindness their loyalty for their indispensable support for our struggle.

On this day we also greet the friendly people of Australia, who remember the struggle of World War II where the people of Australia fought together with the people of East Timor in the mountains of East Timor against Nipponese fascism, and died side by side for the liberty of all the peoples of the world.

During the violent and cowardly Indonesian aggression against our small and defenceless country, the sons of the friendly people of Australia died in the search for truth about our struggle side by side with our soldiers who fought in the defence of our homeland.

Ladies and gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,
it is and it will be appropriate that we condemn the criminal action that ended in a dramatic way the lives of 5 Australian journalists in Balibo, and the other one in Dili.

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It has been 10 years that the weapons of our guerillas have continued to claim for justice and for revenge with justice all the horrible crimes committed by the aggressors, the occupying Indonesians. The tragic scenario of the 5 journalists which took place 10 years ago in the border village of Balibo, and the massacre of Roger East on Dili wharf, is a direct consequence of another even bigger crime, the vile and cowardly aggression to our small and defenceless homeland and the violation of our borders. This invasion and the subsequent military occupation denies to the people of East Timor their sacred right to self-determination and national independence.

The deaths of the Australian journalists constitutes real and incontestable proof of violations by Jakarta's military government of International Law, and is a repudiation by the Indonesian generals of the Universal Principles and of the Rights of other peoples - an unequivocal precedent of the criminal practices of these barbaric occupationists of our homeland.

Ten years ago the assassin bullets of the Indonesian invaders placed the mantle of mourning over the homes of the Australian journalists assassinated in Balibo.

For ten years our people have been slowly decimated by the genocidal regime of Jakarta. For ten years our people continue to be victims of thousands of tortures, massacres, persecutions, indiscriminate imprisonments and other sufferings. It has been ten years that our people have lived under the most cruel oppression, and as a result live in hunger, poverty, misery and terror.

It has also been ten years that we resist! For ten years the Fretilin guerillas have continued to struggle bravely against the powerful occupation, and continued without wavering to sacrifice their lives in a difficult war in defence of the sacred right of their people to self-determination.

It has also been ten years that the people have been resisting firmly and heroically in ways compatible with their concrete and difficult conditions of the criminal occupation and domination of Indonesia. They have been able to cope with tortures, prison, massacres & persecutions, which have become more refined in ways that only the criminal intelligence of Indonesia is able to, with the strict and rigorous control over the movements of the population. All this has been done with singular courage and clarity of purpose, a heroic participation of the people in the Resistance!

We have continually insisted that the international community should press Jakarta to allow groups of independent observers, and Amnesty International, to come to verify the truth of the situation. The intransigent refusal of Jakarta only demonstrates that the Indonesian generals are afraid that the truth will be confirmed.

The visit of Mr Bill Morrison cannot guarantee a true image of the real situation of our homeland and our peoples, because Mr Morrison is a favourite instrument of the propaganda of Jakarta.

The recognition of the so-called Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor is a denial of the principles established in the United Nations, principles allegedly recognised by the Australian Government . These principles that democratic governments claim to defend, after all have no value whatsoever to the Hawke Labor Government when it is more concerned with "fishing" our barrels of petrol from our south coast.

And even further, with the recognition of the so-called Indonesian sovereignty over our homeland, which is an attitude like those above, the trip by Mr Bill Morrison is to give complicity in hiding the crimes of the occupiers of our homeland.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,
On this day particularly related to the professionals of the press, it was useful to reunite the relatives of the victims with all who with their participation in this commemoration are willing to pay homage to the memory of their compatriots assassinated by the Indonesian aggression to our homeland.

We wish also that this day can be useful in awakening the attention of those who have always been indifferent to the sufferings of our people, and in the same way, a warning to the Australian government not to continue to be an accomplice to the crimes committed in East Timor by the genocidal regime of Jakarta.

To all the journalists present, we want to thank you for the attention that you have always been able to give in the telling of our just cause.

We also sincerely wish that this day can be equally useful to unite a little bit more the friendly people of Australia to the martyred people of East Timor, under the banner of struggle for justice, liberty, and democracy, and for the peaceful rights of all peoples.

We want to highlight here that the resolution taken in the Congress of the A.C.T.U. is a spring of warmness to us in our struggle. It is a stimulus to our martyrised people, and also an encouragement to our brave fighters, and we are confident the A.C.T.U. will carry out and be able to implement the policy passed in relation to our cause.

The Maubere people of East Timor is determined to carry out its struggle with the same determination at all times, and is fully confident that the friendly people of Australia, our friends and Australian supporters, and all the internationalist fighters for justice, will do whatever is possible to press the Australian Government to change its position in relation to our people. We highlight that its present position is not a dignified one for a democratic government. It is simply too much of a dark stain on Australian people who have large democratic traditions and have always known how to support us.

Before closing, we would like to affirm once more our total solidarity with Mrs Shirley Shackelton and the relatives of the 5 Australian journalists assassinated in Balibo, as well as relatives of Roger East.

We also want to reaffirm to all our friends and Australian supporters our deep gratitude for all the support and solidarity and warmness that we have always received from you all. We still need some more in order to continue to fly high the flag for the struggle for National Liberation of our small, weak and defenceless people.

United in this way in one thought and deed, we are sure to continue to hold high the Universal Principles of the Rights of Peoples, achieved at the price of so much blood and sacrifice of the whole world - for Peace, for Justice, for Liberty, and for Democracy.

The Struggle Continues in the villages and mountains of East Timor

The Homeland or Death

To Resist is to Win

General H.Q. of the Revolutionary Council of National Resistance, on 13/10/85,
by the Revolutionary Council of National Resistance, Permanent Committee.

NODU RANKADALAK
Member of the Central Committee of Fretilin

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